

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 004078

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/NGA, NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EPET](#) [KU](#) [IR](#) [IZ](#) [KNPT](#) [IAEA](#)

SUBJECT: (U) IRANIAN FM VISITS KUWAIT

Classified By: CDA Frank Urbancic; reason 1.5 (b,d)

1. (C) SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi met with PM Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah and FM Shaykh Dr. Mohammed al-Sabah, during a one-day visit to Kuwait on September 1. According to MFA, the visit was previously planned and not prompted by Kuwaiti PM Shaykh Sabah's impending trip to Washington, where he is due to meet with POTUS on September 10. Contrary to press speculation, Kharrazi did not ask Shaykh Sabah to pass any message to Washington. Most of the discussion centered on the IAEA; Kharrazi urged the GOK to support President Khatami against hardliners, and sought assurances that if his country did sign the Additional Protocol, "that would be the end" of IAEA demands. The GOK pressed Iran to sign the Additional Protocol unconditionally. In remarks to the media, Kharrazi characterized the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) as "an instrument to forward power to a publicly elected Iraqi government." The two sides failed to agree on a common candidate for OPEC Secretary General. END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

2. (C) Our source in MFA, the Minister's Office Director Shaykh Dr. Ahmed Nasser Mohammed al-Sabah, explained that Kuwait had expected Kharrazi to focus on finalizing a bilateral agreement on the maritime border. He said negotiations had begun long ago but had picked up momentum in the past couple of years. The main issue now concerns natural resources. As it turned out, Kharrazi wanted to talk mostly about Iran's relations with the IAEA. (NOTE: Kuwait chairs the IAEA Board of Governors.)

3. (C) Shaykh Ahmed said Kharrazi discussed the situation in Iraq, attributing the car bombing in Najaf that killed Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim to either Saddam loyalists or a very complex Israeli plot. (Shaykh Ahmed himself -- a Sunni -- speculated to Pol Chief September 3 that perhaps Shi'a were to blame, given the high stakes involved in the rivalry between Najaf and Qom.

4. (C) Shaykh Ahmed confided that the two sides had declined each other's requests to withdraw their candidacies for Secretary General of OPEC. He explained that Kuwait's

SIPDIS

candidate is Adnan Shihab al-Din, though this is not yet public knowledge; an Iranian is the only other candidate.

5. (U) As reported widely in local dailies, Kharrazi told reporters during his visit that the US and coalition forces had "committed blunders" in Iraq by not heeding the (unspecified) advice of Iraq's regional neighbors, and should heed the advice of such an experienced statesman as Shaykh Sabah. On a more positive note, he characterized the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) as "an instrument to forward power to a publicly elected Iraqi government." Kharrazi said Iran was serious about combating terror, and noted that Iran had repatriated terrorists to their original countries and would try the remainder "for charges related to carrying out activities harmful to the national security of Iran."

URBANCIC